

*How the crisis services demonstration project,
which funds hb 130, 131 and 132,
is economic stimulus*

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Stimulus goal: **employment**

- This money will go to pay for services in communities across Montana.
- Because the infrastructure is already there, all the money will go for services jobs immediately.
- This does not fund "government services"—it funds medical care provided by community hospitals and other mental health care providers.

Stimulus goal: provide **relief to local governments**

- This funding immediately saves the counties money:
 - ▶ law enforcement officers will transport fewer patients to Warm Springs,
 - ▶ county attorneys will prosecute fewer commitments, and
 - ▶ counties will pay less pre-commitment costs.
- This money will be spent according to plans developed by communities. This is a bottom up solution to local problems, not a one-size-fits all program coming out of Helena.

Stimulus goal: **Healthcare reform**

- Using local beds to provide emergency services and short term treatment prevents inappropriate use of our most expensive resource, the State Hospital, which costs \$516 per day.
- Funding local beds eliminates or reduces the trauma of transportation in handcuffs and shackles.
- Local mental health care is the most effective mental health care because it involves your own community treatment team, including your family.
- A smooth and successful transition from hospital to home is much easier to achieve in the community.

Stimulus goal: Invest today for **future savings**

- Whether the demonstration grant will lead to any savings from State Hospital reductions is an issue for the executive and legislative branches to debate at some future time, but one thing is certain: Unless the Legislature funds community in-patient mental health treatment for the uninsured, they will continue to go to the only funded inpatient service available to them, the State Hospital, and controlling the census at the State Hospital will continue to be a problem.

Stimulus goal: **Mitigate the effects of the recession on the most vulnerable people**

- Hard times cause stress and exacerbate symptoms of mental illness, increasing pressure on services.
- Community-based services minimize disruption to people's lives.
- When hospital stays are longer than necessary, people lose a lot: their federal benefits, their belongings and apartments, their pets, their jobs, their self-esteem. **Access to a full continuum of care in the community prevents a lot of collateral damage.**

Who supports HB 130, 131 and 132, and the crisis services demonstration project?

Central Service Area Authority

Disability Rights Montana

Montana Children's Initiative

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Three out of four regional mental health centers

Montana County Attorneys Association

Montana Licensed Professional Counselors

Montana Mental Health Association

Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers Association

National Association of Social Workers, MT Chapter

Rocky Mountain Development Council

by Anita Roessmann,

Disability Rights Montana

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